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SPANISH WAR TALK

Rumors Revived Today With Considerable Activity.

ARMAMENT SHIPPED TO CUBA

Loss of the Island Would Work Revolution at Home.

PREPARATIONS BEING MADE

War rumors are revived today with considerable activity, and it is asserted with a good deal of force that Spain is preparing for the contingency of war with the United States. This is known by this government, and the knowledge is responsible for the sudden revival of the action of the Cuban question and for the activity in preparing our fleet for service.

This government is represented to be acting on the belief that but two things could happen which would prevent hostility with Spain. One of these things is the subjugation of the Cubans within six weeks. The other is the interposition of Great Britain to compel Spain to grant the liberty of Cuba.

The first is not regarded as at all probable. The second may happen, but still the prospect is remote.

The idea of Spain going to war with the United States seems so absurd that the possibility of its occurrence, which the United States government is placed in necessity.

Result of Giving Up Cuba. It is recognized by the United States that Spain cannot relinquish her hold on Cuba, after all the expenditure of blood and treasure which this revolution has cost, without its involving the overthrow of the present government of Spain.

Of the three parties in Spain the reigning power is regarded as the weakest with the people. Neither the Spanish government nor this government doubts that Cuban independence would result immediately in a revolution and cost the power, if not the lives, of the young king and the regents. Spain understands that if Cuba is not conquered before Congress meets the Cubans will be strengthened by the action of Congress, and that the revolution cannot then be put down at all. If they could manage to keep up the struggle that long, they regard it as certain that from the 1st of March they would be confronted with a new policy on the part of the United States. For this reason they are trying to force the issue to a conclusion while they have no one but Mr. Cleveland to deal with. Every effort is being put forth to cause the rebellion before Congress meets. If this fails, as it is believed by this government, and feared by Spain, it will shift the temptation shifting the contest upon the United States, thus hoping by arousing national pride at home to avert the catastrophe otherwise sure to follow from defeat in Cuba.

This Government Fully Informed. This government is fully informed of this situation and can foresee what it may lead to.

Another thing the administration is informed of, which, when the facts of the speculative features, is the fact that Spain has completely stripped her coast to ship all the heavy armament to Cuba, not for use against the insurgents, but for the defense of the island against an outside attack.

Beyond the force necessary to guard against internal disorder Spain has stripped itself of defense to strengthen Cuba, and to prepare for war around that island with the United States.

The reason for this leaving the Spanish territory proper without protection is that it is understood that in the event of war between Spain and the United States European powers will intervene to the extent of insisting that military operations shall be confined to American waters and to Cuba—that is, that Spain shall not be permitted to use her fleet to attack Spain directly, but there are abundant reasons why the United States should regard the expressions of United Europe in this matter.

Will England Interfere?

Captain General Weyler is now in the field. This government does not know how promising of success is the dash he is now making. Military authorities believe that he will fail. The only question then remaining will be whether England will take a hand. If she does interfere, it will be in the capacity of principal creditor of Spain on Cuba. The United States view of compelling Spain to grant liberty of Cuba under an agreement by this country to guarantee the payment of revenues by "free Cuba" in liquidation of these obligations.

The Venezuelan agreement has naturally changed the relations between the United States and Great Britain. This agreement is regarded by diplomats as in spirit, though not in fact, a friendly alliance between the two countries.

Three months ago, if England had taken any part in the settlement of the Cuban question, it would have been as the friend of Spain. Now she would appear as the friend of this government, and, in the spirit of the Venezuelan settlement, she would feel justified in asking the United States to extend a protection over liberated Cuba to the extent of compelling the fulfillment of obligations or taking responsibility for their fulfillment.

Naval Preparations.

The preparations being made by this country to meet those being made by Spain in Cuba are not as hurried nor in such a spirit of excitement as some of the newspaper accounts indicate. For more than a year the navy has been preparing for any emergency that might arise, and what is being done now is merely the continuance of these preparations. The navy is already so well prepared that there is no need of the excited haste that is described.

A plan of defense and attack was worked out at the Naval War College some time ago, and the solution of the problem committed has been referred by the Secretary of the Navy to a board, of which Admiral Bace is a member, for revision and adoption.

Inspection of Southern Seaports. Gen. Craig, chief of engineers, U. S. army, has just returned from a tour of inspection of the southern seaports. His trip related entirely, it is said, to the possible plans of the fortifications of those ports.

The North Atlantic squadron will be held at Hampton Roads, where their winter cruising waters are.

If there is need for these vessels to go into active service they will be prepared. If not, they will proceed with their winter evolutions.

DISTRICT SUPREME BENCH.

Secretary Herbert Said to Be Slated to Succeed Justice Cox.

It is expected that Secretary Herbert will be appointed by Mr. Cleveland to a place on the supreme bench of the District of Columbia. Justice Cox has reached the period of his service when he may retire, and it is understood that he will soon retire.

SENSATIONAL RUMOR DENIED

The Only Inquiry Made About the Transportation of Troops South.

No Warning to Spain as to the Treatment of American Citizens in Cuba.

Concerning the report coming from the west to the effect that the War Department has been making inquiries of trunk line railroads running to the gulf coast and along the southern seaboard as to their facilities for moving troops and war supplies, it is stated at the War Department that the only inquiry made within the past year on this subject was one intended to ascertain the cost of executing the order made about six weeks ago by the Secretary of War looking to the annual exchange of troops.

A flat denial is also given by the best authority to another sensational story to the effect that the State Department has warned Spain against further outrageous treatment of American commercial agents doing business in Cuba. It is said that owing to radical organic differences in the systems of customs collection pursued by Spain and by the United States and the absence from the Spanish system of the principle of reciprocity, which is a feature of the American system, that the United States government has been more or less embarrassed by detentions of technical requirements of the Cuban customs system. But this has been the case for years past, and it is said that the United States government has been more or less embarrassed by detentions of technical requirements of the Cuban customs system. But this has been the case for years past, and it is said that the United States government has been more or less embarrassed by detentions of technical requirements of the Cuban customs system.

From the White House comes the unexpected statement that there is to be no reversal of the administration policy, and that unless the situation is decidedly altered, the United States will adhere strictly to its original intention of withholding recognition of Cuban belligerency until there are stronger evidences of the ability of the Cuban government to maintain a government. There is now no reasonable ground to believe that Mr. Cleveland's policy will change in his attitude toward the Cuban situation.

Weyler is utterly routed in his present campaign and the insurgents are enabled to move freely. Mr. Weyler is not long to set up a government. That part of the annual message to Congress relating to Cuba will not be prepared until the last week of the month, and it is expected that the United States will wait the latest developments before setting forth to the country the administration toward the island.

The Spanish Minister's Dispatch. Mr. Dupuy de Lome, the Spanish minister, today, in response to an inquiry as to reports of notes passing between the United States minister at Madrid, Mr. Taylor, and the authorities there, showed the following cablegram from the minister of foreign affairs.

"MADRID, November 12, 1896. 'Spanish Minister, Washington, D. C.: 'The cablegrams from New York and Washington, published in London, referring to supposed notes of Mr. Taylor to the Spanish government are entirely false. There is not the slightest foundation for the rumors which are undoubtedly of filibustering origin.'"

TOWELS FOR THE MARINES. A transaction which has caused a Navy Yard Scandal.

The quartermaster's department of the Marine Corps in this city has recently been the subject of an investigation to determine the responsibility for certain alleged irregularities in the making of contracts for supplies for the marine barracks in this city. One result of the investigation was an official request for the resignation of Mr. Henry J. Wylie, chief clerk of the department. It is said that this action arises out of the contract for the washing of towels. According to the best information obtainable the present contract calls for the washing of 100,000 towels at the rate of \$1 per hundred. The existing contract is with the firm of J. W. Wylie & Co., of this city. The existing contract is with the firm of J. W. Wylie & Co., of this city. The existing contract is with the firm of J. W. Wylie & Co., of this city.

What part Chief Clerk Wylie played in this alleged transaction cannot be learned, but it was sufficient to cause Secretary Herbert to ask for his resignation. Mr. Wylie, in the matter, and his attorney, Mr. Wylie, today endeavoring to persuade the Secretary to reconsider his action. He denies any participation in the transaction, except in an entirely innocent way, and says he has no knowledge of the alleged collusion on the part of the contractors to take advantage of the government. A strong effort will be made by Mr. Wylie's friends to have the Secretary investigate the matter, as they claim such an investigation will establish Mr. Wylie's innocence.

OF LOCAL INTEREST. Gen. Sawtelle Recommends a Memorial Bridge to Arlington.

Quartermaster General Sawtelle, in his annual report, makes the following pertinent remarks in regard to matters of great local interest: "The matter of constructing a bridge over the Potomac river, between the naval reservation grounds and the Arlington reservation, with a view of furnishing a short and direct route to the Arlington cemetery and park, and afford rapid communication between this city and the military post of Fort Myer, Va., is a very important one. It has been strongly urged by my predecessor, and I earnestly recommend that a bill similar to Senate bill 170, introduced by Mr. Frye of Maine, be introduced by the Senate February 12, 1898, may be enacted into law at the coming session of Congress."

The improvement of the public roads from the Aqueduct bridge, near Georgetown, to the Arlington National cemetery and park has also been strongly urged in previous reports, and it is hoped that this important matter may receive the favorable action of Congress at its next session. The estimates made by the engineers of the War Department for the construction of good macadamized roads of a substantial and durable character, at the cost of this improvement at \$50,000."

Keatsekians in the Cuban Army. FRANKFORT, Ky., November 13.—Information has been received here at last corroborating the rumors that Henry and Dalton Arnold, formerly of this city, who were supposed for two years past to have been drowned in Biscaya bay, a storm, were in the Cuban army. The news comes through Robert Wickliffe of New Orleans. They are serving under Gen. Garcia.

AN EXTRA SESSION

Dispensation of Official Patronage May Be Postponed.

THE PASSAGE OF A TARIFF BILL

How This Result Could Be Expedited in Congress.

WHAT MAY BE DONE

An intimation has gone forth to the effect that in the event of the calling of an extra session of Congress soon after March 4 the President-elect may postpone all matters relating to official patronage until Congress should pass a tariff bill. An exception would be made, of course, in the case of cabinet officials.

If this intimation comes from Major McKinley, it will be a severe blow to a great many office seekers, who are already setting their pins for a raid upon the appointments as soon as opportunity may present. It is supposed that the object to be attained in pursuing such a course on the part of the President-elect would be a double one. He would relieve himself and his cabinet of annoying pressure, pending the construction of the new tariff law, and the withholding of the patronage would act as a spur upon the efforts of the legislators, hastening their deliberations and advancing the date of the relief of the anxiety in commercial circles over the new rates. Of course the opportunities of the office seekers would be directed to the Senators and Representatives, who could not get rid of them until the tariff bill was out of the way.

Object of Such a Program. In justice it should be said that the alleged program does not convey the intimation that Major McKinley proposes to use the patronage prerogative as a club over Congress. Such is far from being the case. The idea is that the tariff revision is more important to the country at large than any matters of appointment, and that it should receive the sole attention of the executive and legislative branches of the government until accomplished.

One effect, of course, of such a program would be the retaining in office of great many officials in this city who might have reason to expect early dismissal under the new administration. If this alleged plan of the republicans is adhered to it will accrue to the advantage of the present occupants of offices likely to be changed by the new administration.

In this connection, it is said at the Post Office that the republicans are already ready coming in for appointments to postmasterhips. Letters are being received every day from the faithful all over the country, asking for their own postmasterhips in line early for postmasterships.

IGNITED BY SPARKS. Destruction of the Old Central High School at Chicago.

CHICAGO, November 13.—Sparks from the ruins of the manual training school, which burned last night, set fire today to the old central high school building on West Monroe street. The old central was used by the board of education, and had \$300,000 worth of school supplies stored in it. These were completely destroyed. The flames rapidly spread throughout the building and in a short time it was in ruins.

Seven barrels of oil stored in the basement exploded and sent debris flying in every direction, but no one was injured. Several surrounding buildings were temporarily in ruins. It is the prevailing wind. The loss to the building is \$200,000. No insurance was carried. The loss on the manual training school was \$15,000, fully insured.

BRYAN'S DENVER TRIP. Program for His Entertainment Committee.

DENVER, Col., November 13.—The program for the entertainment of William J. Bryan November 24 was completed today. Mr. Bryan is expected to arrive at Denver at 10 o'clock a. m., and will be met at the depot by a reception committee. The party will take breakfast at the home of Mr. Charles S. Thomas, whose guest Mr. Bryan will be during his stay here. After breakfast Mr. Bryan will receive the ladies at the Brown Palace Hotel until 1 o'clock. From 2 to 3 p. m. he will be driven about the city in an open carriage. This is expected to be the last of his public demonstration. At 8 o'clock Mr. Bryan will deliver his lecture at the Central Presbyterian Church, and at 9:30 he will be the guest of honor at a chamber of commerce banquet at the Brown Palace Hotel.

Shot by Trainmen. Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

SEVERN, Md., November 13.—Last evening a colored man, who gave his name as Frank Wilson of Augusta, Ga., was shot in the leg and arm by the trainmen of a freight train of a through train on the Baltimore and Potomac railroad. He and two others were beating their way south, and when the train was brought to a stop, because of a hot journal, they were ordered off. Wilson claimed that they all complied, and when the trainmen approached, his companions ran off, and after they had beaten him about the head one of them shot him, leaving him bleeding beside the track. He was attended by Dr. J. Chester McPherson of the train, who extracted the ball, and found that the wounds were not serious, and subsequently a north-bound train carried him to Baltimore. Wilson claimed that he had been at work in New York, and having lost his job was making his way home.

Judgment for the Government. TOPEKA, Kan., November 13.—The United States circuit court has rendered judgment in the sum of \$500 in favor of the federal government against the bondsmen of the late Frank Maher, who committed suicide last spring when it became known that he was a defaulter as postmaster at Kansas City, Kan.

The Terror Goes to Sea. NEW YORK, November 13.—The United States monitor Terror this morning put out to sea to make an official trial of the pneumatic appliance of her guns and carriages.

Illness of a Diplomat. MADRID, November 13.—Gen. Riva Palacio, the Mexican minister to Spain, is seriously ill.

Keatsekians in the Cuban Army. FRANKFORT, Ky., November 13.—Information has been received here at last corroborating the rumors that Henry and Dalton Arnold, formerly of this city, who were supposed for two years past to have been drowned in Biscaya bay, a storm, were in the Cuban army. The news comes through Robert Wickliffe of New Orleans. They are serving under Gen. Garcia.

ABOUT BIMETALLISM

What Will Be Done With That Plank in the Republican Platform.

Authority for a Commission to Be Asked—What Would Probably Be Approved by the Administration.

Now that the only hope for legislation in the direction of the free coinage of silver during the coming four years rests with the republican party, it is very interesting to hear the opinions of the leading republican platform which declare in favor of "international bimetalism" and pledges the republican party to do all within its power to bring it about.

Authority for a Commission. It is generally believed that one of the first official acts of Maj. McKinley when he becomes President of the United States will be to ask Congress to give him authority to appoint a commission for the purpose of considering the question of international bimetalism and of working to bring about an agreement between the leading commercial nations of the world looking to a more general use of both gold and silver in their monetary systems.

Extreme silver men are skeptical about the possibility of such a commission accomplishing anything of consequence; but bimetalists within the republican party believe that by such methods will the result in the absorption of the currency by the great nations of the world. It is hardly expected that there will be "free coinage" at 16 to 17 times the value of the silver, and the great question discussed by silver men is what such a commission, if appointed, would be instructed to approve.

What Would Be Approved. A prominent republican who has arrived in this city after having been much a part of the campaign, in speaking to a Star reporter today about the possibility of an international agreement on the subject of bimetalism, said he was satisfied the international bimetalism that would be approved by the administration would be an agreement among commercial nations for the coinage of a certain quantity of silver by each, with a mutual pledge between them to keep this silver on a par with the value of gold. Such an agreement would result in the absorption of the currency systems of the world of all the silver now being mined, and would not, it is believed, materially advance the price of the white metal so that its value would not be so enhanced as to greatly stimulate its production.

Not Satisfying to Radical Silver Men. This arrangement would be far from satisfying radical free silver men, but it is believed by many republicans that if it could be brought about in such a way as to provide for a safe increase of the coinage of the world it would be agreeable to the great mass of conservative silver men of the republican party. The chief argument of silver men against such an arrangement is that it would not tend to lower the purchasing power of gold, and in that sense would not give the relief for which the faction of the silver men have contended.

INTERNATIONAL BIMETALLISM. Senator Carter Expects Mr. McKinley Will Work to Secure It.

Senator Carter of Montana is in the city and will remain here until Congress meets. When asked by a Star reporter today whether he expects the incoming administration and the republican party to proceed earnestly to secure international bimetalism, Mr. Carter replied:

"I do not think the republican Senators who bolted the St. Louis convention will support a tariff measure without demanding concessions for silver."

"What character of bimetalism do you expect will be urged by the administration?" Mr. Carter was asked.

"Oh, I would prefer not to go into a detailed discussion of that now."

"Do you think the republican Senators who bolted the St. Louis convention will support a tariff measure without demanding concessions for silver?"

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MR. BRYAN'S PLAN

A Clash of Opinion in the Democratic Ranks About It.

THE CONTINUOUS CAMPAIGN IDEA

Entirely New Literature Must Be Provided for Distribution.

SOME WANT A REST

There is a little clash of opinion in the ranks of the democracy regarding the methods that should be pursued during the campaign for the presidency by Mr. Bryan, who is a candidate for the presidency. Mr. Bryan wants to keep up a vigorous campaign and as a beginning in that direction he has arranged for two lectures on bimetalism and the signs of the times in Lincoln, Neb., and he is ready to continue along that line of work wherever he may be called upon to lecture.

On the other hand, there are old campaigners who believe that the republicans should be allowed to have their inning at the legislative bat, and that when the results of their rule are shown, the democrats could come forward, give a criticism of what they have done, and propose new measures if the results have not fulfilled expectations.

Arguments of Bryan's Supporters. These who support Mr. Bryan in his position that a continuous campaign should be waged argue that the election to take place in 1896 will be important as a forerunner of 1900, and that the country will regard the voice of the American people then as an indication of their approval or disapproval of the course of the administration up to that time, only looking to 1900 as a completed verdict.

"They say, further, that if bimetalism is founded on logical and just principles it will be advanced by discussion and a thorough understanding of its meaning and effect, and the more it is talked about by Mr. Bryan and his followers the more the republicans will have to talk about it, if only to express any criticisms of those doctrines."

There seems to be a unanimity of opinion among democrats that the country in order to be prepared to continue reading on the free silver question must be supplied with new literature; that the bulk of the campaign documents sent out during the past three or four months are not just the thing to continue feeding the people. They do not express any criticisms of those doctrines, but simply believe that the country demands newly prepared matter, and in this fact there will probably be a considerable number of republicans and representatives in their efforts to produce in the form of speeches on the subject of free silver matter suitable to make popular campaign documents.

Fresh Arguments on Both Sides. Free silver men have been studying carefully the objections urged by "sound money" men to free silver arguments, and an effort will be made by speakers in the next Congress to answer these objections.

While some free silver men are discussing the four years' campaign, the democrats who do not agree with them assert that the country should be allowed a rest from the "four years' campaign" sentiment which comes from the west and south, and the most radical of the free silverites, while those who do not agree with them generally express the eastern sentiment of the party. Those who believe in dropping the campaign for the present believe that there should be no great obstacle placed in the way of the "sound money" men to express their views on the subject of the republicans, expressing a belief that if they are given full scope for legislation they will place themselves in a more vulnerable position to the attacks of the democracy in 1900 than if a constant warfare is kept up on them, and the measures they attempt to carry through Congress are modified by compromise with a vigorous opposition.

The First Factional Fight. These two factions in the democratic party will have their first fight for supremacy when the democratic congressional committee meets in this city, which will be in December, when its plans for the future will be mapped out.

STARTLING STRUCTURAL WEAKNESS. Facts Said to Have Come Out at the Texas Court of Inquiry.

The inquiry which is proceeding at the New York navy yard behind closed doors into the circumstances under which the Texas sank at her dock recently has, it is reported here, brought to light a further startling structural weakness in the ship. It was not heretofore known, but the telegraphic reports of the sinking in Texas showed that one engine room filled through the water-tight doors, closing it off from the adjoining engine room. This led to investigation, and it has been found that the bulkheads separating the ship into supposedly watertight compartments are so light that they spring under the pressure of water and cause great leaks.

Although the magazine is separated from the engine rooms by a continuous bulkhead, a door opening, it was soon filled by a door which ran around the edges and through the seams of the metal. A naval expert in the navy yard stated that if the Texas' sea valve had broken as it did out at sea, the vessel would surely have foundered, owing to the failure of the bulkheads and doors.

Going to a Banquet. Secretary Herbert and several chiefs of bureau will attend the annual banquet of the naval architects at Delmonico's, New York, this evening. They will make the trip in a special car over the Pennsylvania road, leaving here in the afternoon and returning on the midnight train.

Settle Will Not Contest. Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

RALEIGH, N. C., November 13.—The statement has been widely circulated that Thomas Settle, republican, would contest the election of William W. Kitchen, democrat, to Congress from the fifth district. Settle says he will not contest. Kitchen's official majority is 403.

Fraudulent Voting. OKLAHOMA, Okla., November 13.—News of fraudulent voting and illegal conduct of the election in the territory has caused Delegate Flynn to instigate an investigation, upon which to base a contest to show his re-election to Congress.

The Corvette Monocacy. The corvette Monocacy left Tien Tsin for Tongkoo, at the mouth of the river Pihoo.

Seaboard Deal. Closing of the Option Postponed Until Next Month.

The closing of the option for the purchase of the Seaboard and Air Line railroads by Thomas F. Ryan of New York and his associates has been postponed until December 1. It is said that there has not been any time any question of Mr. Ryan's ability to raise the money, but that the necessity for postponement is on account of the action in the matter of President Hoffmann and General Manager St. John, who, it is said, have both been slated for displacement, and the claim of Hoffmann to the position, as long as possible, is being held, although it is absolutely certain that the deal will go through before the close of the present transaction comes to a written, if it is ever made public, it will be found that the Louisville and Nashville and the Southern railway companies have agreed upon a joint ownership of the Seaboard, and the new corporation will be headed and ostensibly managed by Mr. Ryan and those selected by him.

Republican Headquarters Still Open. The republican congressional committee is still maintaining headquarters at the Hotel Normandie, 15th and I streets. Vice Chairman Aspley is in the city, and Secretary Mercer and Colonel Schrader are on duty at committee headquarters.

Ordered to Indian Head. Ensign H. H. Christy of the navy has reported at the Navy Department under orders for duty at the naval proving grounds at Indian Head.

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THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Interest in the Discussion Over Probable New Commissioners.

Indications of a General Sentiment Favorable to the Selection of the Best Men Obtainable.

There are very prominent indications in local business circles, using that term in the very broadest and most comprehensive sense, that a general combination of interests will be formed for the purpose of designating and securing the appointment of successors to the present Commissioners of the District of Columbia when their terms of office expire. In all quarters, and they are many, where a reporter of The Star has prosecuted his inquiries regarding the expected changes in the personnel of the local government, there has been but one opinion discovered, and one desire expressed; that the very best men obtainable should be appointed to the offices, and that these men should be selected solely with a view of their qualifications for the discharging of the business of the national capital on a sound and sensible business basis, without fear of favor of any one whose interests may lie within the District boundaries.

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